

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
3RD DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
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June 23, 2011

0803

Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC, 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to inquire about the status of WC Docket No. 09-144, Securus Petition for Declaratory Ruling. It is my understanding that this petition has been before the FCC for some time and that the FCC has not yet acted on the petition.

As the former Chair and current Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, I am aware of the importance of continued communications during an inmate's incarceration between the inmate and his or her family and supporters in assisting the inmate to reenter society successfully. Moreover, studies have demonstrated that a lack of familial contact increases the chances of recidivism. The FCC's action on this petition would have a substantial impact on communication between families and loved ones who are incarcerated.

Accordingly, I would like to know whether the FCC has a timetable for consideration and action on the petition. I request that you provide me with a response to my letter as soon as possible.

I look forward to your response and thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Rashage Green in my office at 202-225-8351 or at Rashage.Green@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

August 19, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

Thank you for your letter regarding inmate calling services and the related rulemaking proceeding pending before the Commission. The Securus Petition involves a service marketed for a monthly fee to inmate families called ConsCallHome. An inmate's family subscribing to that service receives a phone number local to the prison. When the inmate calls the local number, ConsCallHome uses a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) router to route the call from the local number to the family's home number even if it is outside the local calling area. By using this methodology, inmate families pay the set-up charge for the call and any charges for a local call, and do not incur long distance charges.

The Securus Petition requests the Commission to rule that services like ConsCallHome are a call diversion scheme, which Securus is entitled to block pursuant to Commission precedent. This Petition raises complex factual questions and legal issues that may have security implications for the public. Commission staff is reviewing the record that has been compiled and has been meeting with interested parties to obtain a better understanding of the information submitted to the Commission. Please be assured that the Commission is working as expeditiously as possible to address the questions raised in this proceeding.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and "G".

Julius Genachowski